proliferation regime as well as the regional and international peace and stability."

(c) The international trade in nuclear materials and technology is regulated, *inter-alia,* by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). China is a member of NSG. The NSG is presently examining the issue of adjusting its guidelines to enable full international civilian nuclear cooperation with India. The statement issued by NSG after its annual plenary meeting in June 2006 noted "Participating Governments continued to examine the issues raised by the US-India Joint Statement of July 2005. They discussed, in this context, a possible NSG-lndia relationship regarding civilian nuclear co-operation. They decided to continue their consultations and agreed to return to this matter at the next regular Consultative Group Meeting, when further information might be available."

Passage between India and Tibet

2149. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of by-passes on Sikkim Borders which are a passage between India and Tibet like Nathu La;

(b) the number and details of such passes which are also opened on the pattern of Nathu La and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the steps taken/to be taken by Union Government to avoid the repetition of 1962 attack by China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) At present, Nathu La is the only passage between India and Tibet in the Sikkim Sector of the India-China border areas, through which the Governments of India and China have reached an understanding to resume border trade.

(b) No such understanding has been reached between the Governments of India and China with regard to any other border pass in this sector.

(c) There has been significant progress in India-China relations, which have qualitatively improved across a wide range of areas and entered a new phase of comprehensive development. Both sides have expressed commitment to develop friendly and cooperative relations with

each other, while addressing their differences through peaceful dialogue. Government remain vigilant in monitoring the security situation in India's periphery and are taking all necessary steps to safeguard the security and territorial integrity of India.

Bus service between Agartala and Kolkata

2150. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tripura has demanded introduction of direct bus service between Agartala-Kolkata *via* Dhaka, to avail uncalled for hassle to passangers of changing buses;

(b) if so, the details of the project and frequency of bus service proposed; and

(c) the steps proposed and contemplated to prevent infiltration of illegal influx from Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for starting a direct bus service between Agartala and Kolkata has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh. Details of the project as well as frequency of bus services would be worked out by the bus operators of both the countries after the proposal is agreed to by the Government of Bangladesh.

(c) The issue of infiltration of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh has been regularly raised by the Government with the Government of Bangladesh, including at the highest levels. During the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister to India in March 2006, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work closely together to find mutually satisfactory solutions to all outstanding issues including the above issue.

HUDCO projects for Tamil Nadu towns

2151. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects of various State Governments particularly relating to Tamil Nadu pending with Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for financial aid, State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost of these projects;

(c) the details of town/townships to be developed through these projects; and

(d) the time by which these pending projects are likely to be cleared?